

**Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**  
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health  
Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE: July 2, 2004

RE: Children's Co-occurring (MH/SA) Disorders

This week's PIP was prepared in response to a request from Stacy Jolles of the Agency of Human Services Juvenile Justice Commission. Stacy is working on a project to develop statewide standards for the treatment of youth under age 21 with co-occurring disorders. This PIP examines the prevalence of co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders (as evident in the existing MIS database) among adolescents (age 14-21) who were assigned to Children's Services programs in Vermont Community Mental Health Centers during CY2003. As in our previous PIPs regarding co-occurring disorders among adults with severe and persistent mental illness ([www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2004/pip061804.pdf](http://www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2004/pip061804.pdf)) and other adult mental health service recipients ([www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2004/pip062504.pdf](http://www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2004/pip062504.pdf)), the indicators of substance abuse disorders used in this analysis included an intake problem assessment that indicated an alcohol or drug abuse problem, a diagnosis of substance abuse (303.9-305.9), and/or having received service(s) from a substance abuse program in the reporting CMHC.

As you will see, 26% of all Children's Services clients in the specified age group had at least one of these indications of a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. The identification rate, however, varied substantially from more than 40% at the Howard Center in Chittenden County (HCHS) to less than 5% at North Country Counseling (NCSS) in St Albans, and Lamoille County Mental Health (LCMH) (4% and 2%, respectively).

Older adolescent (18-21) recipients of mental health services were substantially more likely to have identified substance abuse disorders (36% vs. 23%). Rates of identified substance abuse disorders for boys and girls, however, were similar overall (28% vs. 25%) and in the 14-17 age group (both were 23%). Among older adolescents, however, boys were substantially more likely than girls to be identified (43% vs. 30%).

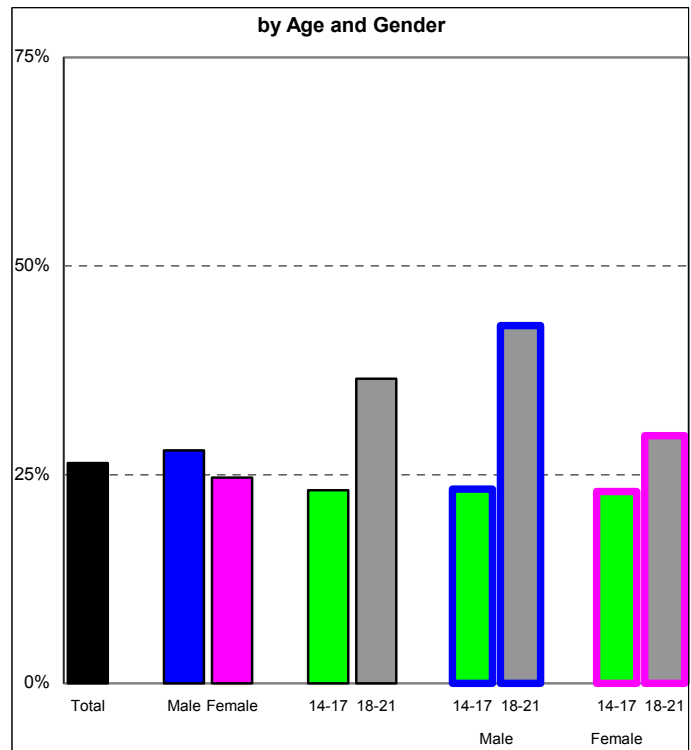
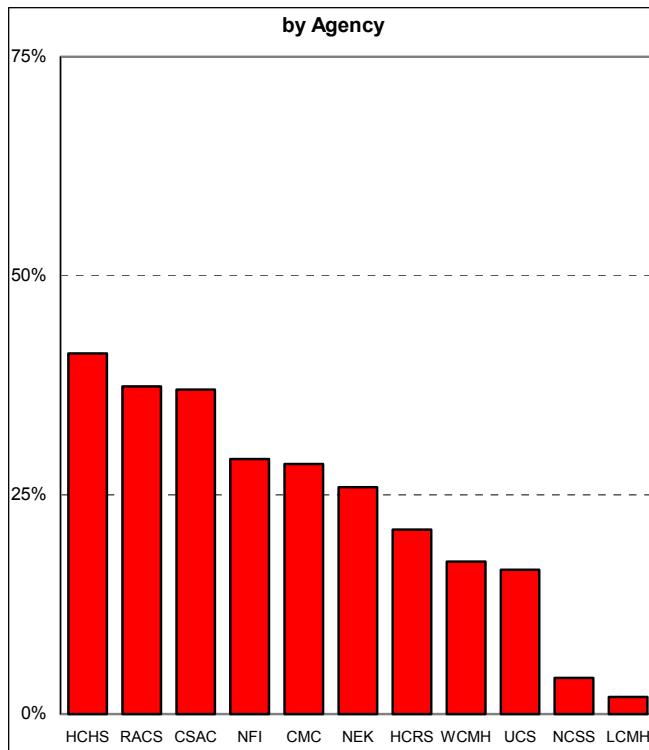
As mentioned in our earlier PIPs regarding co-occurring disorders, the differences observed here could come from several sources: differences in the identification of substance abuse disorders by clinical staff among young people in these age and gender groups or in different regions of the state, differences in utilization of CMHC programs by young people with both mental health and a substance abuse disorders in different age and gender groups or in

different regions of the state. There may also be differences in record keeping and reporting practices at different Children's Services programs.

We will appreciate your interpretations of these findings and your suggestions for further analysis of these data (or other relevant data) to [pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us).

# **Children's Services Clients with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Disorders Vermont CY 2003**

## **Percent of Clients with Any Indication of Substance Abuse Disorder**



Children's Services Clients Served					
by Agency			by Age and Gender		
	Number	w/ SA Indication		Number	w/ SA Indication
Total	5,350	26%	Total	5,350	26%
HCHS	999	41%	Male	2,845	28%
RACS	404	37%	Female	2,505	25%
CSAC	589	37%			
NFI	313	29%	14-17	4,048	23%
CMC	277	29%	18-21	1,302	36%
NEK	587	26%			
HCRS	836	21%	Male 14-17	2,173	23%
WCMH	380	17%	18-21	672	43%
UCS	273	16%			
NCSS	435	4%	Female 14-17	1,875	23%
LCMH	257	2%	18-21	630	30%

Data used in this analysis were extracted from Monthly Service Report (MSR) files submitted to DDMHS by designated community mental health service providers. Children's Services client counts include all individuals (aged 14 to 21) who were assigned during calendar year 2003 to a Children's Services Program.

Any substance abuse indication is defined as client with an indication of an alcohol and/or drug abuse problem, a substance abuse diagnosis, and/or receiving substance abuse services. A substance abuse problem includes all clients with an alcohol and/or drug abuse problem according to the problem checklist done at time of intake. A substance abuse diagnosis includes all clients with a diagnosis greater than or equal to 303.90 and less than 306.00. Substance abuse services include all clients who received at least one service from a substance abuse program.